

## INFANT BAPTISM

Infant baptism does not appear in the Word. It is a custom that comes from Paganism and was "introduced" into the church very, very long ago.

Eben Swart of the "Trumpet Call" ministry, studied the subject and wrote as follows in his document: "[Infant baptism](#)" ....

*"It is a custom which pagans had carried into the Roman Catholic Church 17 centuries ago. Constantine the Great (Emperor of Rome) then declared Christianity to be the State Religion. Every Roman citizen had to become a Christian. Paganism was outlawed, pagan temples were shut down, and the pagans were absorbed into the Roman Church. And these brought along their pagan views and customs, which soon infiltrated the State Church – the birth of the Roman Catholic Church. At the Reformation of the 1500's, Protestants (followers of Martin Luther) took over this custom from the Roman Catholic Church without changing it, and later developed doctrines to justify it. These doctrines are among those which are today known as 'Covenant Theology' ".*

Why certain churches link infant baptism to circumcision (in the O.T. and the circumcision of the heart in the N.T.), is because they link it to the Covenant made with Abram. Thus "baptism" becomes for them one and the same as "covenant". Eben Swart writes ...

*"The entire Infant Baptism doctrine rests wholly on one doctrinal pillar:*

*That baptism is a **seal** of the **Abrahamic Covenant**.*

*For the sake of brevity, we will not attempt here to explain WHY this is so. Suffice to say that any person who would be included in the Abrahamic Covenant (the covenant which God made with Abraham – Gen. 15; 17) would be **saved**. This is Covenant Theology."*

## THE COVENANT WITH ABRAM

However, being "saved" requires the **application of faith**, something that a baby cannot do.

Let us explain ...

Blood was involved in the covenant with Abram, namely the blood of the sacrificed animals in Gen. 15. The Covenant with Abram was as the Covenant with Noah, "**YaHUAH's Covenant**", because the Word says every time ... "**My Covenant**" ... and we read about it for the first time after Noah and his family abandoned the ark and had to bring sacrifices, Gen. 9:9 - 13. The "My" Covenant was always ratified with blood.

YaHUsa "confirmed" this Covenant in the "middle of the week", Dan. 9:27. He ratified it with His own blood on the Stake as one of the **two Entities** in Gen. 15:17 – 18, because YaHUAH had sworn **by Himself** (Gen. 22:16 18, Heb. 6:13 - 18). Abram himself was asleep. For more information on the Dan. 9:24 - 27 prophecy and YaHUsa's fulfillment of it, see the document: [BAPTISM OF THE BELIEVER](#).

YaHUAH's Covenant was thus ratified with Blood and not with water. We must have therefore faith in YaHusha as the Anointed One ... in His death and in His resurrection. Baptism or even "faith in baptism" cannot save. Baptism is therefore not the seal of the covenant.

Baptism (*immersion*) follows **after** someone has come to faith in YaHusha as the Anointed One, after he/she got born again from above.

Thereafter it is followed up by the immersion in water, because it then symbolises in the physical realm that which took place in the spiritual realm, namely the "**baptism into His death**" as well as the Resurrection that will eventually follow. So ... first the Blood, then the Baptismal Water.

In Egypt it was also **firstly** the blood of lambs that saved them from the death of the tenth plague that struck all the firstborn of the Egyptians, and after that they went through the Red Sea which was the "**Baptism into Moses**", in the Cloud and in the Sea (1 Cor. 10:1 - 11).

The Baptism of the New Testament therefore fulfilled the "baptism into Moses". (*For more information, see the document: [BAPTISM OF THE BELIEVER](#).*)

## CIRCUMCISION

So, baptism therefore does not really link to circumcision as such. With circumcision there is also blood involved. Circumcision has to do with access to the Promised Land.

YaHUAH never ratified His Covenant with water, it was always with blood, "for life is in the blood" (Lev. 17:14). At first it was the blood of animals, but that was only until YaHusha came to ratify it with His own blood.

That is why we COMMEMORATE this New/Renewed Covenant of YaHUAH ("My" Covenant) with the New Covenant Meal each year, as YaHusha had instituted it with the Bread and the Wine. It is not done by "baptism" with the sprinkling of water. The bread represents "His body" that was broken for us and the wine represents "His blood" that was shed for us.

In other words, we cannot say that Baptism is equal to the New Covenant Meal which we celebrate with Passover. It would mean that Baptism with Water is the "Covenant", which cannot be.

Baptism with water (Immersion) is the SYMBOLIC EXPRESSION in the **physical realm**, of the spiritual baptism that happened in the **spiritual realm**, namely the "**baptism into His death**" and "His death" does involve Covenant. One can say that Baptism by Immersion is **like** a wedding ring that **shows** someone is married. But one can also not just put on a wedding ring and think that it should **replace** the wedding ceremony. First the one, then the other.

Circumcision revealed that the Israelites were Abram's descendants, according to the promise he had received in Gen. 15:4 - 6. Physical Israel was physically circumcised, but with spiritual Israel it is the heart that must be circumcised, and faith is necessary for both the physical and spiritual circumcision.

Circumcision was therefore directly linked to the promise given to Abram (who subsequently became AbraHam), namely that his offspring, **his seed**, would become like the "sand of the sea" (physical Israel) and the "stars of heaven" (spiritual Israel). See: Gen. 22:17 - 18.

YaHUsa came from the physical offspring of AbraHam and **through Him** the "stars of heaven" offspring are being born, as it was promised to Abram. Spiritual Israel came to be through YaHUsa as THE Seed (singular) of AbraHam.

That is the foundation of the physical circumcision (and the circumcision of the heart), and faith was involved with both, as well as blood, and not water.

Gen. 15:4 And, behold, the word of YaHUsaH *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall **come forth out of thine own bowels** shall be thine heir.

Gen. 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the **stars**, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**

Gen. 15:6 And he believed in YaHUsaH; and He counted it to him for righteousness.

Gal. 3:16 Now to Abraham and **his seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to **thy Seed**, which is the Anointed.

Gal. 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to *bring us unto the Anointed*, that we might be justified **by faith**.

Gal. 3:25 But **after that faith is come**, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Gal. 3:26 For **ye are all the children** of Elohim **by faith** in the Anointed.

Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as have been BAPTISED INTO THE ANOINTED have put on the Anointed.

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in the Anointed YaHUsa.

Gal. 3:29 And if **ye be the Anointed's**, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Only the circumcised could **enter the physical Promised Land**, for Gen. 15:4 - 6 was linked to Gen. 15:18 - 21. It has already been fulfilled for physical Israel, as they had received that piece of Promised Land (1 Kings 4:20 - 21), but for us as spiritual Israel it also requires circumcision, namely circumcision of the heart, to be able to **enter the spiritual Promised Land** and it is accompanied **by faith** in YaHUsa as the Anointed (as the Seed of Abraham), namely faith in His death and resurrection. Faith, just like Abram had who had also believed in Him (Rom. 4:9), for Abraham "saw His day" (Gen. 22/John 8:56).

Because Abram **believed**, it was counted to him for righteousness, and he became AbraHam, the spiritual father (*the Hebrew "Hey" which was inserted in his name indicates the Spirit*). But even AbraHam has not yet inherited the Spiritually Promised Land. All Believers will enter into it together at once ... those whose hearts had been circumcised ... by faith.

Heb. 11:8 **By faith** Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Heb. 11:9 **By faith** he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Heb. 11:10 **For he looked for a city which hath foundations**, whose builder and maker is Elohim.

Heb. 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Heb. 11:40 Elohim having provided some **better** thing for us, that they **without us** should not be made perfect.

Circumcision was thus linked to **AbraHam's faith** which was reckoned to him for righteousness (Gal. 3:6), for after that he was circumcised to the genitalia through which the seed would come forth. It was a Blood Covenant.

So faith is also essential for the circumcision of the heart in the New (or Renewed) Covenant. We read about circumcision of the heart on the basis of faith in Rom. 2:28 - 29, Gal. 3:3, Gal. 5:3 - 6 and the whole of Rom. 4.

**Abraham** also had the **circumcision of the heart**, because he **believed in Elohim** and THIS was counted to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:3).

A baby sprinkled with water, on the other hand, cannot believe, and so it is not the baptism that the Word speaks about. It is not Scriptural (we do not sprinkle a cookie either, but we "dip" it into the coffee).

It is also interesting that already in the Old Testament, reference was made to the circumcision of the heart, because their unbelieving hearts were hardened. Compare Deut. 10:16, Jer. 9:25 - 26, Ezek. 44:7 and Acts. 7:51.

Though people would want to link infant baptism with circumcision, there is no justification for it, because a baby cannot yet have faith and a baby cannot have any knowledge of being a sinner so that he/she can confess sin and then have the Blood of YaHUsa as reconciliation.

But a baby will be covered by his parents' faith until he/she becomes accountable (1 Cor. 7:14).

Though there is room when parents want to dedicate their baby to YaHUAH, but then it is not through baptism, but through prayer and blessing (Num. 6:23 - 27), and it is then also the parents' job to educate the child so that he/she will be led to YaHUsa.

But what was the origin of infant baptism then?

## **THE PAGAN ORIGIN OF INFANT BAPTISM**

For this we are going to quote Eben Swart again, as he did historical research on the matter ...

*"Where did pagans get the original idea of baptising babies?*

*This goes back in time quite far – back to the fourth generation after Noah's flood!*

*Research shows the following: Noah's great-grandson Nimrod was a godless man. He built the city of Babylon and devised a system of religion which led his followers away from God.*

*This religious system became known as "The Mysteries", and is still practiced today by pagans.*

*After Nimrod's time, the Mysteries developed more and more as time went on. In this religious system, one of the ways by which people would try to get rid of their sin, was by purification by*

*fire. They would make a high-flaming fire, and jump through the flames repeatedly, believing that each “pass through the fire” would burn away their sins.*

*And of course, as time went on, they realised that the sooner in his life a person would “get rid of his sins” in this way, the better. So they started to do this with babies. As soon as a baby’s physical body could endure the procedure, they would wrap it tightly in cloth – so as to resemble a rugby ball. Then two grown-ups would position themselves on both sides of a high-flaming fire, and throw the baby through the flames repeatedly, each time catching it on the other side of the fire.*

*This is what “passing children through the fire for Molech” refers to (2 Kings 16:3; 23:10; 2 Chron. 33:6; Ezek. 16:21). At some stages in history, this practice was outlawed by God-fearing authorities – which caused the practitioners of the Mysteries to switch from fire (as an agent of purification) to water (which is also a well-known agent of purification).*

*And voilá! We have the baptism of babies – by sprinkling of water.”*

See also: THE TWO BABYLONS by Alexander Hislop and [BAPTISM OF THE BELIEVER](#).

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AndriYaH  
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